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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2945  
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 4707  
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 0057  
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 4944  
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 0071  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 2935  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 4342  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0147  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0109  
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 0482  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1239  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1916  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 002346

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [UNIFIL](#) [IS](#) [LE](#) [NP](#)  
SUBJECT: NEPAL TO SEND PKO FORCE TO LEBANON

Classified By: Ambassador James F. Moriarty. Reasons 1.4 (b/d).

[1](#)1. (C) The cabinet of the Government of Nepal (GON) decided on August 29 to send a battalion of soldiers to Lebanon to join the UN peacekeeping force. Brigadier General Chand, Director of Public Relations for the Nepal Army, told the Defense Attache that there could be up to 860 soldiers sent to the UN Mission. Chand said that the unit would be an ad hoc unit, selected from across the Army. Selection had already begun, and Chand expected it to take around two weeks, after which the soldiers would be sent to the Birendra Peace Operations and Training Center (BPOTC) at Panchkhal. Based on normal training cycles, DAO estimates that the soldiers could be deployed in around three months.

[1](#)2. (C) Dinesh Bhattarai, Joint Secretary in the UN Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told Emboff that the GON may need airlift assistance to get the troops to Lebanon. He asked if that was something the U.S. would be willing to provide.

Comment  
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[1](#)3. (C) Nepal moved quickly to answer the call for UN peacekeepers in Lebanon, a role the Nepal Army has played many times in the past. The GON seems proud to be providing these soldiers, and it understands that this deployment may boost the GON's standing in the international community. That standing is particularly important as the country seeks UN assistance in its fragile peace process and transition to democracy and pursues a rotating seat on the UN Security Council.  
MORIARTY